

Feedlots: They're Finally Taking Hold In Australia

Enthusiasm for beef cattle feedlots is still running high in Australia, despite a drought that hit that country's grain crop last year. The reason: Though rank-and-file Australians had indicated a preference for meat with less fat the more flavor, representatives of the Australian Meat Exporters' Federation found, during a 1970 trip to Europe, that Australian meat had a reputation for being too tough to sell in European markets as table beef. And, more recently, Japan's interest in

finding a dependable source of foreign beef.

While feedlotting in Australia is still small, compared to the U. S., it has made astonishing headway, considering that just a few years ago Australia had neither feedlots nor much serious interest in establishing them.

Today, there are 10 lots in the State of Victoria with a capacity of 500 animals per lot. Queensland also has about 10 lots the same size, while New South Wales has 25 lots with 500 head capacities. Some advantages: Feedlots

New Pork Import Regulations

Under a regulation change announced recently, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will permit imports of pork and pork products originating in hog cholera-free countries but processed in hog cholera-infected countries, provided certain precautions are observed.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said the new regulation, which became effective June 11, will ensure that a safe supply of certain types of dried and cured pork products will continue to be available to the U. S. consumer.

They pointed out, for instance, that approximately 800,000 pounds of salami from West Germany alone would be cut off without this change in regulations.

By following the handling and transportation procedures

provided grain farmers with weather-damaged over-quota wheat. Feedlots also provided more constant profits for operators. Some drawbacks: Lack of management and nutrition experience among many new feedlot operators. And, lack of uniformity in foreign demand

specified in the regulation, the imports pose no threat of hog cholera to the U. S. swine industry, officials emphasized.

These are the conditions that must be met:

--The pork used must be from a hog cholera-free country and must be transported to the processing plant in the hog cholera-infected country in containers sealed by the national veterinary authorities of the hog cholera-free country. Seals on each container must be serially numbered.

--A meat inspection certificate listing these seal numbers must accompany the shipment

--The pork must have been

cured and dried for not less than 45 days in the processing plant.

--Veterinary officials must certify that the processing plant shipping the pork and pork products to the United States has found the container seals unbroken upon arrival from the hog cholera-free country, and that the plant does not receive or process live swine and-or pork or pork products from hog cholera-infected sources

APHIS has designated as hog cholera-free the following countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man), Iceland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, and New Zealand

Thornless Blackberries

A new publication from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) describes the care and culture of thornless blackberries.

For years, home gardeners hesitated to grow blackberries in their backyards because of the annoying thorns. USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) developed two thornless varieties -- Smoothstem and Thornfree.

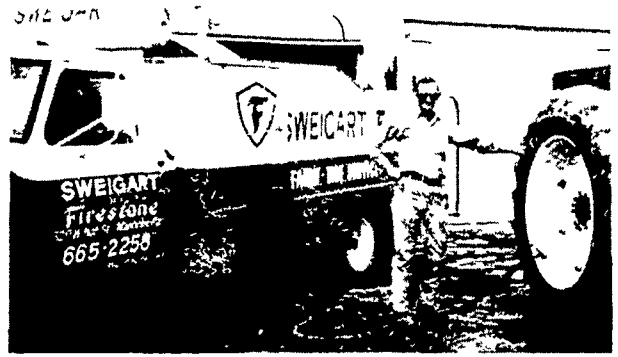
These blackberries, popular

with home gardeners are productive, easy to handle and require little pruning. The fruits are firm and highly flavored

The new publication, by ARS plant geneticists, describes planting, training, pruning, cultivation and harvesting thornless blackberries. Eight thornless varieties are also described.

Single copies of "Thornless Blackberries for the Home Garden," Home and Garden Bulletin No. 207, are available for 20 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D C 20402. Please use zipcodes

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